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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/471,577	12/23/99	LUDWIG	VISN-007/03U

ATTN PATENT GROUP
COOLEY GODWARD LLP
FIVE PALO ALTO SQUARE
3000 EL CAMINO REAL
PALO ALTO CA 94306-2155

LMC1/0825

EXAMINER

ENG, G

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2743

DATE MAILED: 08/25/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/471,577

Applicant(s)
Ludwig

Examiner
George Eng

Group Art Unit
2743



☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 23, 1999

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 1 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☒ Claims 1-16 are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☒ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

Art Unit: 2743

DETAILED ACTION

1. Upon initial review of the claims it appears that claims 1-16 differ in subject matter. In accordance with this a restriction is deemed proper.

2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3, drawn to a multimedia central office being configured to image reproduction in conferencing system, classified in class 348, subclass 15.
- II. Claims 4-7, drawn to a multimedia central office being configured to call message retrieving, classified in class 348, subclass 14.
- III. Claims 8-12, drawn to a multimedia central office being configured to call processing based on which capabilities are associated with a workstation of a first user, classified in class 348, subclass 15.
- IV. Claim 13, drawn to a multimedia central office being configured to call waiting, classified in class 348, subclass 15.
- V. Claims 14-16, drawn to a multimedia central office being configured to call routing, classified in class 348, subclass 16.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II, III, IV and V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be

Art Unit: 2743

separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as combining captured video images of at least three users into a mosaic image for reproduction at a workstation of at least one user, invention II has separate utility such as retrieving and playing back stored a multimedia document in a manner representing the relationship in which the multimedia document was created, invention III has separate utility such as processing a call based on which capabilities associated with a workstation of a user such that each user can participate in the call to the extent of the capabilities available to a user, invention IV has separate utility such as detecting an incoming call and notifying a first user of an identity of each calling user forming a part of the incoming call if the first user is engaged in an active call with a second user, and invention V has separate utility such as routing a call for a user to a workstation at which the user is logged in. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. Applicant is advised that the response to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed.

6. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently

Art Unit: 2743

named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a diligently-filed petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(h).

Conclusion

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-6296 (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is (703) 308-9555. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7 AM to 5:30 PM.

Art Unit: 2743

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

GEORGE ENG

August 15, 2000


CURTIS A. KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700